8. A committee was constituted by the Board for preparing the Composite Security Plan for the Railways. This committee comprised of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police, SPG. The committee has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Board.

(d) At present, 51 posts of Inspector, 273 posts of Sub-Inspector, 268 posts of Assistant Sub-Inspector, 1233 posts of Head Constable, 37 posts of Artisan and 256 posts of Followers are lying vacant in Railway Protection Special Force. The vacancy includes 150 RPSF staff who are on deputation outside RPSF.

So far as steps taken to fill-up the existing vacancies is concerned, it is stated that while the recruitment for filling-up the vacancy of Artisan and Ancillary staff of RPSF also, the recruitment process by Zonal Railways is underway and recruitment process for filling up the vacancy of Sub-Inspector against 131 vacancies under direct recruitment quota is also underway. As regards, filling up the vacancies against the promotional posts of Head Constable, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Inspector is concerned, efforts are being made to promote the staff in the lower rank to higher rank adhoc, even through in number of cases they have not completed requisite length of service for being promoted on regular basis.

Pathankot-Jogindernagar rail link

903. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail link between Pathankot-Jogindernagar and its connectivity with Bhanpalli-Barmana-Manali is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether it would later on be extended from Manali to Leh and Ladakh; and

(c) if so, whether a technical survey has commenced and whether this project is likely to be included in the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey for construction of a new line from Bilaspur to Leh (via Kullu and Manali) with connectivity to Jogindernagar has been taken up.

(c) A decision on the inclusion of the project in the Plan proposals would be feasible based on the results of the survey, once the survey is completed and survey report finalized.

Permission of cooking gas cylinders to vendors at platforms

†904. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrangements provided by IRCTC is running smoothly and items provided by it are in conformity with prescribed price standard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the pantry car in trains are equipped with the cooking gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the poor vendors on the platform not allowed to have the same alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Standard Meals, Tea/Coffee and Breakfast and a-la-carte items are supplied to the passengers at the rates fixed by Railway Board and IRCTC respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per policy no cooking is permitted on platforms at suburban stations and at other stations cooking is to be progressively reduced and prohibited on stalls and trolleys on the platforms, except for making of tea.

Unhygienic food in Bilaspur Rajdhani Express

†905. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food being served in Bilaspur Rajdhani Express is not prepared at clean place;

(b) whether this matter has been investigated into; and

(c) the efforts made to improve the arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Base kitchens where from the meals are supplied to Bilaspur Rajdhani are ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certified. Regular checks at these Base kitchens and in trains are conducted by the officials of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and zonal railways to ensure that good quality of food is served to the passengers.

Indo-Nepal rail project

†906. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Indo-Nepal rail project;

(b) whether it would be expedited in the changed scenario; and

(c) by when the new target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) For providing Broad Gauge rail connectivity between border towns of India and Nepal, Preliminary Engineering cum Traffic Surveys have been conducted at the following five locations on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.